

no mention of the use of benadryl nor pyribenzamine in the treatment of urticaria.

Sufficient place is not given in the book for a discussion of the histopathology of skin diseases. An increase in the number and quality of microphotographs would add to the value of such discussions. A chapter on x-ray and radium therapy also seems desirable.

The authors indicate that their book is designed mainly as a textbook for undergraduate students and as a practical aid for the general practitioner. Both of these aims are admirably accomplished.

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PROGRESS IN GYNECOLOGY. Edited by Joe V. Meigs, M.D., Clinical Professor of Gynecology, Harvard Medical School; Chief of the Vincent Memorial Hospital, the Gynecological Service of the Massachusetts General Hospital; Surgeon, Pondville Hospital; Gynecologist, Palmer Memorial Hospital, and Somers H. Sturgis, M.D., Chief, the Vincent Memorial Hospital Laboratory; Assistant Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York. 1946. Price \$7.50.

The book reviewer is in a unique position, in that he is expected not only to be appreciative, but the public also expects him to be discriminatory. This review will attempt to fulfill both of these responsibilities.

First off, one can say of the volume entitled "Progress in Gynecology" that it is well conceived. There is a real need for such a volume, and we hope that it may reappear at appropriate intervals. For the sake of those who are interested in the woman as a whole, which all gynecologists should be, one could wish that the childbearing function with its special features and interests could have been reflected in the title and the content. Gynecology can no longer neglect reproduction. To do so is to consider the plant only and not its real function, which is equally to perpetuate. But such omissions are characteristic of a few centers of learning, and this volume, fine as it is, goes along with an outmoded trend. True, there are fine chapters on infertility and sterility as well as habitual abortion, but these are the characteristic American gynecologist's obeisance to necessary office practice, which inevitably involves pregnancy. One wonders when we will be able to train men to be equally wise and interested in reproduction as well as in the non-reproductive functions of the adult woman.

Having engaged in these animadversions, some of which are admittedly philosophical, we should turn to a consideration of the virtues of this fine volume.

In the first place, each section is written by a person well equipped to express an opinion upon the subject concerned. As this is in essence a progress report, one must tolerate brevity, which is evident in each chapter. This characteristic makes it valuable from the point of view of conversant gynecologists, as well as those well read general surgeons who may thumb its pages, and we hope there may be many.

After careful appraisal one may admit that perhaps this is a unique volume, in that even with its brief consideration of a strictly gynecological sphere, it not only covers recent progress, but it

also ties in familiarly with the past. In other words, it is a progress report, but it is also a connecting link. In this achievement its editors are to be congratulated, for this is really good teaching.

It would be a mistake to analyze too closely, because the various chapters have been written by different individuals, some of whom have gone into considerable helpful detail while others have sketched a brief outline. This latter statement is so true that it may be that brevity has been considered to be too much of a virtue. However, it must be admitted that after careful perusal of many of the sections one cannot but wonder why the author could not have been more candid and have stated more clearly what he thought with regard to vaginal prolapse, or cervicitis, or lymphadenectomy, and so on.

From the foregoing it is clear that the reviewer is beset by mixed emotions, that he considers this innovation in gynecological literature an interesting and valuable contribution, but is lost in wondering just what group in the medical profession is to be profited most by its perusal. The general idea is admirable, and many sections are helpful—but others are not so useful. It may be that this is to be expected of a progress report. In all fairness we must say that this contribution is worthy of mature consideration. It will meet the needs of many who are seeking gynecological support.

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PENICILLIN IN SYPHILIS. By Dr. J. Earle Moore, Associate Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Public Health Administration, The Johns Hopkins University; Physician-in-Charge Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic and Visiting Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital; Chairman, Syphilis Study Section, National Institute of Health, United States Public Health Service; Chairman, Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases, National Research Council. Published February 1, 1947, by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$5.00.

This is the first book to appear in which the special problems of antisyphilitic therapy are considered in detail in relation to penicillin. It is very much worth while, as it comes at a time when the general literature is extremely confusing. Dr. Moore presents the subject clearly and concisely, and one is amazed that he is able to fill 300 pages without the inclusion of any irrelevant material. The result is a clear and logical analysis of the position that penicillin holds in antisyphilitic therapy today with predictions as to the probable direction of future investigation.

Nearly half the book is devoted to the chemistry and pharmacology of penicillin and the results of its use in experimental syphilis in animals. One should not pass over this part of the book to get at the clinical material, for to do so is to miss a number of facts that make some of the curious results of treatment in human syphilis more or less comprehensible.

The greater part of the clinical section is devoted to the use of penicillin in early syphilis and in neurosyphilis, since it has been used extensively and critically only in these stages of the disease. The most complete and systematic investigation of the results of penicillin therapy has been in connection with early syphilis. In spite of grave difficulties